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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAB-02 CPR-01 SY-05 USSS-00
VO-03 CA-01 MCT-01 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 /091 W
----------115410 061651Z /46
P R 061506Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1590
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3755

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SW, PN
SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS PLAY ON ARAGON SUICIDE

REF: STOCKHOLM 3720

1. CONSERVATIVE SVENSKA DAGBLADET CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON SEPTEMBER 6 CONTAINING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE PREPARATIONS CARRIED OUT BY LEOPOLDO ARAGON ESCALONA BEFORE HIS SELF-IMMOLATION ON SEPTEMBER 1. ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, ARAGON SENT LETTERS, ALL DATED AUGUST 30, (HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY) TO NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN AND OUTSIDE SWEDEN. ONE WAS ADDRESSED TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER PALME IN WHICH ARAGON EXPRESSES HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE YEARS SPENT IN SWEDEN IN POLITICAL EXILE--SINCE 1973. ARAGON ASKS THAT HE BE CREMATED AND THAT HIS ASHES REMAIN IN SWEDEN UNTIL THE POLITICAL SITUATION CHANGES IN PANAMA. IN ANOTHER LETTER TO STOCKHOLM POLICE CHIEF HANS HOLMER, ARAGON INCLUDED THE KEY TO HIS APARTMENT AND INSTRUCTIONS ON THE DISPOSITION OF HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

2. THE ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT, ACCORDING TO AP, ARAGON LAST
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JUNE TAPED A MESSAGE TO A FRIEND, DR. WINSTON ROBLES, A FORMER PROFESSOR OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA, NOW RESIDENT IN THE US. THE MESSAGE IS DIRECTED TO THE "AMERICAN PEOPLE" AND ASSERTS THAT THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA HAVE NO POLITICAL FREEDOM OR HUMAN RIGHTS WHATEVER. FURTHER, THAT, "IF THE US SIGNS AN AGREEMENT WITH TORRIJOS, THEN THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PANAMANIANS AND OTHER LATIN AMERICANS

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WHO ARE PREPARED TO BLOW UP THE PANAMA CANAL."

3. AN ARTICLE IN LIBERAL DAGENS NYHETER ON SEPTEMBER 3, BY THE PAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MATS LUNDEGARD, CLAIMS THAT US PUBLIC OPINION DID NOT UNDERSTAND ARAGON'S DEATH, NOTING THAT NOT ONE US PUBLICATION HAD COMMENTED ON OR ANALYZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS DESPERATE ACT. IN THE US, THE REPORTER CONTINUED, ALL PUBLICITY REGARDING PANAMA REVOLVES NOW AROUND THE CANAL TREATIES AND THEIR CHANCES FOR US SENATE APPROVAL.

4. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AFTONBLADET CARRIED ON SEPTEMBER 3 THE ONLY EDITORIAL THUS FAR ON THE ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MASS MEDIA WHEN IT PUBLICIZES PLANNED POLITICAL ACTS, SUCH AS ARAGON'S DEATH, NO MATTER HOW DISTASTEFUL THE COVERAGE, PARTICARLY THE GRAPHIC COVERAGE, MAY BE. THE PAPER ACCEPTED THE ASSERTION THAT THE SWEDISH PHOTOGRAPHER WHO TOOK THE DRAMATIC PHOTOS OF ARAGON AFLAME COULD NOT HAVE PREVENTED HIS DEATH, AND DID NOT QUIBBLE WITH HIS TAKING THE PHOTOS. IT DID, HOWEVER, QUESTION THE PROPRIETY OF THEIR WIDESPREAD PUBLICATION SUBSEQUENTLY ON THE THEORY THAT THIS KIND OF PUBLICITY COULD WELL STIMULATE OTHER RASH ACTS IN THE FUTURE.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Retention: 0
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Subject: FURTHER PRESS PLAY ON ARAGON SUICIDE
TAGS: PINS, SW, PN, (ARAGON, ROSE MARIE), (ESCALONA, LEOPOLDO ARAGON), (ARAGON, LEOPOLDO ESCALNA)
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Type: TE
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